CIA Spy Report Is Rushed to Ford

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A report by CIA Director William E. Colby replying to allegations of large-scale domestic spying by the agency today was on its way to President Ford in Colorado.

There was no hint whether Colby refuted or acknowledged the charges.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger received the report late yesterday as head of the National Security Council and adviser to the President on national security affairs for forwarding to Ford.

Spokesmen for the CIA, meanwhile, kept publicly silent on the charges: that the agency conducted surveillance activities against anti-war activists and dissidents and maintained files on 10,000 citizens during the Nixon administration in violation of its legislative charter.

Meanwhile, James Angleton, who has resigned as chief of the CIA's counter-intelligence department, said he thought the charges were exaggerated but that there was "something to it."

"I agree with some of it," Angleton told United Press International.

REP. LUCIEN N. Nedzi, D-Mich., chairman of the intelligence subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, said in a television interview that "there's been an overstepping of bounds," by the CIA. "You might call it illegalities in terms of exceeding their charter," Nedzi said.

Former CIA Director Richard Helms, now ambassador to Iran, yesterday denied that the CIA conducted illegal domestic operations against anti-war activists or dissidents while he headed the agency or that any unit was created by him to do such covert work.

The denial was contained in a State Department telegram sent by Helms from

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Teheran to Kissinger after Kissinger requested a report on the allegations.

State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said Helms left Teheran yesterday to spend the holiday season with relatives in Europe.

Anderson said Helms then would return to Washington on home leave for from four to six weeks. During this time, Helms presumably would be available for such further investigation as Ford may decide is warranted or for appearances before congressional committees that already are planning hearings on the CIA.

KISSINGER, through his press spokesman, yesterday said he "earnestly hopes that judgments in these allegations be suspended until the President has received Colby's report and has decided what further steps may be needed." Anderson said Kissinger is not conducting an investigation of the charges but is merely serving as a transmittal agent. Kissinger, he added, was not asked by the President to prepare any report or to make any commentary on the Colby report he forwarded to Ford.

Asked whether Kissinger as functional head of the NSC ever approved any CIA activity within the United States, Anderson replied, "I am confident the answer is 'No.'" When reporters pressed the spokesman for a direct reply from Kissinger himself, Anderson said he would attempt to obtain such an answer.

Anderson had said on Monday that there was no plan for Helms to return to the United States. He explained yesterday that officials subsequently had discovered that last October there was a routine approval of home leave for Helms beginning yesterday. Helms' return here has nothing to do with the CIA allegations, Anderson said.

Colby, according to Ford, has denied any CIA activities now are going on inside the United States.

ALTHOUGH the CIA declined any public comment on the allegations, some CIA officials have commented privately on them.

"I don't know if these things were happening," said one veteran, "but I'll say this: if it was, there were some mighty high-powered officials here who never heard of it."

Another official said, "You've got two things here: whether there was surveillance of American citizens on American soil and whether there were files on American citizens. I never heard of any surveillance but there are 40 or 50 valid reasons why we would have files on U.S. citizens."

Some of these reasons, he said, would cover persons suspected or known to collaborate with foreign agents, those with access to such agents abroad and those who travel behind the Iron Curtain. The CIA for years has made a practice of questioning tourists, students, businessmen and military officers who have just returned from overseas. The agency also includes in its files information about some newspapermen who work overseas.